



SACOG Board of Directors

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Congestion Management Process Update

A confluence of three events requires SACOG to make changes to its treatment of roadway congestion in its transportation planning process and in its monitoring program.

The first event relates to the CMP as a statutorily required responsibility of MPOs. In the past, SACOG met the statutory requirements through its ongoing planning and public outreach efforts, with no additional, stand-alone process or document required. However, in SACOG's most recent MPO certification review, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) highlighted the need for a CMP more clearly aligned with federal guidance and more clearly connected to decision-making.

The second event is the recent publication for comment of rules related to the assessment of performance on the National Highway System (NHS). The publication details new requirements for assessment of delay and reliability of roadways, some of which will fall on MPOs to implement. Implementation of these rules is proposed to start in January 2018. SACOG will be working with its affected members to: 1) communicate what is required; and 2) identify any opportunities to connect this required work with ongoing transportation planning activities.

Finally, SACOG has a regional transportation monitoring program, which historically has relied on aggregate (i.e., system-wide or area-wide) estimates of congestion and delay prepared by other agencies, to track congestion over time in our region. New data sources are available for SACOG to do its own tracking of congestion, and attach that to specific facilities. Given the interest in using more detailed performance data for assessments of projects, the time is right for SACOG to transition its regional transportation monitoring program to include more facility-specific estimates of congestion and delay, which would be tracked over time.

In view of this, SACOG will begin a series of outreach meetings and communications with member agency staff to assess both interest level and concerns regarding these events over the next 4 to 6 months. Based on the feedback from that outreach, SACOG will develop a proposed project to address the FHWA concerns regarding the CMP, the new federal requirements related to performance assessment on the NHS within the SACOG region, and the opportunities for including facility-specific congestion monitoring in SACOG's regional transportation monitoring program.

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